Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A white balance processing apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on a taken image based on a set white balance value;

storage means for storing white balance values <u>set for the taken image obtained in past image taking and</u> employed in said white balance processing; ~~of past taken images; and~~

~~employed~~ <u>custom</u> value setting means for setting a white balance value employed in the past, stored in the storage means as ~~the~~ <u>a custom</u> white balance value for the taken image<u>;</u>

<u>detected value setting means for detecting and setting a white balance value to be set to said white balance processing means from the taken image;</u>

<u>correction means for correcting said detected white balance value; and</u>

<u>corrected detected value setting means for setting said corrected detected white balance value to said white balance processing means;</u>

wherein said storage means additionally stores said corrected detected white balance value set and employed at said white balance processing means as a white balance value employed in the past.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Currently amended) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1 further comprising:

selection means for selecting one or the other of said ~~employed~~ custom value setting means [[or]] and said detected value setting means as means for setting said white balance value for the taken image; and

forced setting means for, ~~when~~ if said detected value setting means is selected by the selection means, switching from said detected value setting means to said ~~employed~~ custom value setting means only during a specifically designated period.

4.   (Currently amended) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim [[3]] 1 further comprising:

display means for displaying taken images processed of said white balance processing with using said set white balanced value; and

register means for causing the white balance value employed in the white balance processing of the taken image displayed on [[a]] <u>said</u> display means to be stored to said storage means <u>based on an instruction from a photographer</u>.

5.   (Currently amended) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

preset value storage means for <u>previously</u> storing preset white balance values that are ~~previously set~~ white balance values <u>set correspondingly to specific light sources</u>; <u>and</u>

~~correction means for correcting said preset white balance values; and~~

corrected preset value setting means for <u>correcting said preset white balance values by said correction means and</u> setting ~~said~~ <u>the</u> corrected preset white balance value ~~for~~ <u>to</u> said white balance processing <u>means</u>;

wherein said storage means stores said corrected preset white balance value set and employed [[in]] <u>at</u> said white balance processing as said white balance value employed in the past.

6.   (Currently amended) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim [[1]] <u>5</u> further comprising:

retaining means for retaining a white balance value employed in the white balance processing at said white balance processing means; and

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register means for registering the white balance value retained at the retaining means to said storage means <u>based on an instruction from a photographer</u>.

7.   (Currently amended) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said retaining means retains a plurality of white balance values employed in said white balance processing, and wherein said register means selects a predetermined white balance value from said plurality of white balance values and registers it to said storage means <u>based on said instruction from a photographer</u>.

8.   (Currently Amended) A white balance processing apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on a taken image based on a set white balance value;

<u>reproduction means for reading recorded image data for reproduction;</u>

<u>selection means for selecting desired image data from a reproduced image;</u> and

setting means for setting, as the white balance value for ~~said~~ white balance processing <u>on the taken image</u>, a white balance value ~~read out from recorded taken~~

~~image data,~~ <u>corresponding to said selected image data and</u> employed in white

balance processing of ~~that~~ <u>the</u> ~~taken~~ image <u>data</u>.

9.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim

1, further comprising:

setting enabling means for enabling a setting of said white balance value only

when there is a coincidence between presence/absence of flash emission for the

taken image and presence/absence of flash emission for image taken at the time of

acquiring the white balance value set for the white balance processing of said taken

image.

10.   (Currently amended) A white balance processing method comprising

the steps of:

storing a white balance value employed in white balance processing of <u>a</u> past

taken image; ~~and~~

<u>setting said stored white balance value employed in the past as a custom</u>

<u>white balance value for the taken image; and</u>

effecting white balance processing on [[a]] <u>the</u> taken image ~~by using the~~

~~stored white balance value employed in the past as the~~ <u>based on said set custom</u>

white balance value ~~for the taken image~~<u>;</u>

wherein said stored white balance value employed in the past is a white balance value detected from the taken image subjected to processing in the past and corrected based on an instruction from a photographer, and is the white balance value employed in white balance processing of the taken image.

11.   (Currently amended) The white balance processing method according to claim 10, wherein said stored white balance value employed in the past is a white balance value ~~detected from a taken image processed in the past~~ read out of a previously stored preset white balance value and corrected based on said instruction from the photographer and is the white balance value employed in the white balance processing of the taken image.

12.   (Currently amended) ~~A white balance processing program for causing a computer to execute~~ A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable white balance processing instructions including the procedures of:

storing a white balance value employed in white balance processing of a past taken image;

setting said stored white balance value employed in the past as a custom white balance value for the taken image; and

effecting white balance processing on [[a]] the taken image ~~by using the~~ based on said set custom white balance value;

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wherein said stored white balance value employed in the past as the is a white balance value for the detected from the taken image subjected to processing in the past and corrected based on an instruction from a photographer, and is the white balance value employed in white balance processing of the taken image.

13.   (Original) A white balance processing apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on an image to be taken;

color histogram processing means for effecting histogram processing by color components in accordance with said image to be taken processed of white balance by the white balance processing means; and

display means for displaying histograms by color components obtained by the color histogram processing means.

14.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said color histogram processing means effects histogram processing by color components by separating said image to be taken of an entire image frame and said image to be taken of a specific regional portion set within the image frame.

15.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said display means displays by color components the histogram

concerning said entire image frame and the histogram concerning the specific regional portion by said color histogram processing means so that they can be compared with each other.

16.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13 further comprising:

display control means for effecting control to display said histograms by color components on said display means when a setting screen for setting white balance is displayed on said display means.

17.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said display means concurrently displays information concerning adjusting conditions of white balance of said white balance processing means.

18.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said information concerning the adjusting conditions of white balance comprises information indicating types of mode of white balance that can be selected.

19.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said information concerning the adjusting conditions of white balance

comprises information concerning ratio about a specific color component processed of said histogram processing.

20.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said display means in addition concurrently displays said image to be taken.

21.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said display means additionally displays a white balance detecting region on said image to be taken.

22.   (Original) The white balance processing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said color histogram processing means effects histogram processing by three color components of RGB.

23.   (Original) A white balance processing method comprising the steps of:

effecting white balance processing on an image to be taken;

effecting histogram processing by color components in accordance with said image to be taken processed of said white balance processing; and

displaying histograms by color components obtained by said histogram processing together with said image to be taken.

24. (Currently amended) A ~~white balance processing program for causing a computer to execute the procedures~~ <u>computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable white balance processing instructions</u> of:

effecting white balance processing with respect to an image to be taken;

effecting histogram processing by color components in accordance with said image to be taken processed of said white balance processing; and

displaying histograms by color components obtained by said histogram processing together with said image to be taken.

25. (Original) A digital camera, including a white balance processing apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on an image to be taken;

color histogram processing means for effecting histogram processing by color components in accordance with said image to be taken processed of white balance by the white balance processing means; and

display means for displaying histograms by color components obtained by the color histogram processing means.

26.   (Currently amended) A digital camera, including a white balance processing apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

white balance processing means for effecting white balance processing on a taken image based on a set white balance value;

storage means for storing white balance values set for the taken image obtained at the time of past image taking and employed in said white balance processing of past taken images; and

employed custom value setting means for setting a white balance value employed in the past, stored in the storage means as the a custom white balance value for the taken image;

detected value setting means for detecting and setting a white balance value to be set to said white balance processing from the taken image;

correction means for correcting said detected white balance value; and

corrected detected value setting means for setting said corrected detected white balance value to said white balance processing means;

wherein said storage means additionally stores said corrected detected white balance value set to and employed in said white balance processing as a white balance value employed in the past.

27.   (Original) The digital camera according to claim 26, wherein the white balance processing apparatus further comprises:

setting enabling means for enabling a setting of said white balance value only when there is a coincidence between presence/absence of flash emission for the taken image and presence/absence of flash emission for image taken at the time of acquiring the white balance value set for the white balance processing of said taken image.